A.J. Charnetski.

0430/032/006
1919
H

A ROMNELLET RAM LAMB

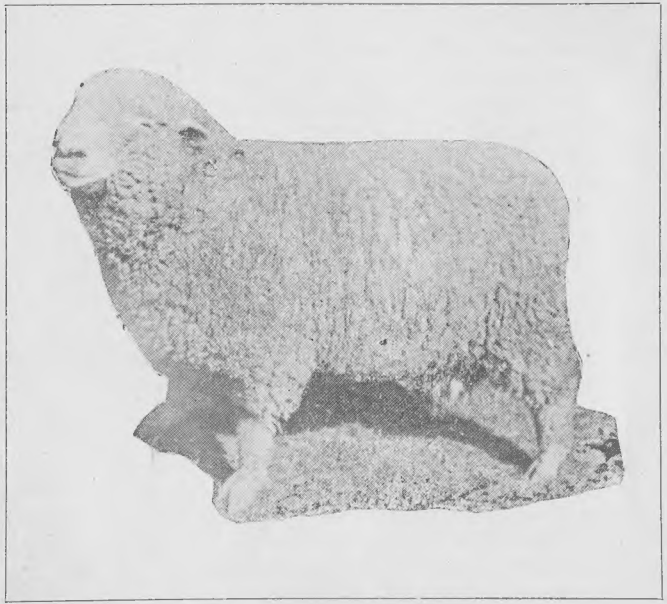
THE STORY OF THE ROMNELLET

LIBRARY, ALBERTA AGRICULTURE
7000 - 113 STREET, EDMONTON
ALBERTA, CANADA T6H 5T6

The Ideal Sheep for Range or Farm

Founded by

R. C. HARVEY, Lethbridge, Alta.



THE STORY OF THE ROMNELLET

The Ideal Sheep for Farm or Range

Founded by

R. C. Harvey - Lethbridge, Alta.

INTRODUCTION

THE demand for the "Romnellet" has become so widespread, that I have prepared this little booklet in order that anyone interested may become familiar with the history of the breeds that have contributed to the formation of this particular type, and that they may know something of my aims and objects in connection with my cross-breeding operations. I wish to especially impress upon those who study the following pages, the fact that both the Romney Marsh and the Rambouillet are old-established breeds. In any cross-breeding, where sheep are expected to rough it to a greater or less extent, the Merino foundation is paramount. The Rambouillet is merely an improved type of Merino—the French Merino, improved in America, until it has become recognized as a dula-purpose sheep. In fact, it is the only real dual-purpose breed, when the true definition of that phrase is understood. According to the best authorities such a sheep must be a fairly good mutton animal, and at the same time produce a fleece of the finer grades of wool.

In the matter which follows, I will attempt to show why I have used the two breeds mentioned, and why they make a logical combination in the formation of a distinct type suited to Western range and farm conditions. We all know that it takes a considerable span of years to establish a distinct breed. When we read of other breeds that have originated from crossing two older varieties, we are often prone to wonder what individual animals were used in the first experiments. The Oxford, which is a cross between the Hampshire and the Cotswold, was recognized as a distinct breed in 1862, and yet we know comparatively little about its origin so far as individuals are concerned. The same applies to other half-breeds. In the case of the Romnellet, I have kept accurate records from the first, and when the breed is sufficiently established to warrant the opening of a national flock book, it can be traced to individual pure-breds, which are all registered in the Canadian National Records at Ottawa, both in the case of the Romneys, which constitute the top cross, and the Rambouillets.

According to Mendel's law, when we cross two distinct breeds of animals, we will invariably get three distinct types. One will favor the sire, another will favor the dam, and the third will be a true half-bred, combining fifty per cent. of each of the breeds used. This has naturally been the case with my operations. But I am carefully selecting the type which satisfies my ideal, and through proper mating will eventually intensify the blood sufficiently to insure their breeding true in practically every case. This, of course, will take time.

On the other hand, the first cross between the two breeds produces an animal that will, in my estimation, give the utmost satisfaction on the range and in the farm flock. While they are not registered, and cannot be registered, except in my own private flock-book, they are pure-breds to all intents and purposes, because both the sires and dams are pure-breds. They combine the good qualities of both breeds to such a marvellous degree that I don't think they can be equalled as an all-round " dual-purpose " sheep. They have given superior service on both range and farm, and those who purchased my rams last year and the year before are all loud in their praise. The type varies, it is true, but it is sufficiently uniform in the qualities desired, that the variation is practically nullified.

It is not my object at any time to knock any other breed. They all have their place and their advantages, and each one was bred with some particular purpose in view, the same as I am breeding the Romnellet with a particular purpose in view. Years ago, necessity compelled me to look for something that none of the established breeds could give me alone. One breed would stand up in every respect, perhaps but one, and its failure to meet my requirements in that particular led me to look for it in some other breed. I believe I have found the ideal combination in the Romney-Rambouillet cross. The New Zealand strain of Romney did not give me exactly what I wanted, and I tried the English Romney, which measured up entirely. I have studied and experimented and calculated and tested until the last demand has been fulfilled, and I offer the Romnellet as my conception of the ideal range or farm sheep for Western Canadian conditions.

Lethbridge, Alberta, October 15, 1919.

R. G. Harvey

THE STORY OF THE ROMNELLET

Perhaps it would be well to let someone else tell a portion of my story. Before doing so, however, I would like to say a word regarding my early experiences in the sheep business. My first band of " woolies " consisted of native Merino ewes. They were no better than any other band that roamed the prairie, but they gave me a good return on my investment. As the time for breeding approached, I was in somewhat of a quandary as to just what type of ram I should use. I say type, because my mind was settled that nothing but a Rambouillet would do on the range. In casting about for suitable representatives of this breed, I came across some mighty fine looking animals in the flock of James Ririe, of Magrath. Mr. Ririe had been getting his rams from W. S. Hansen, in Utah. They were big, upstanding fellows, with lots of constitution, heavily fleeced and splendid rustlers.

I bought some of them and used them, and the improvement in my lamb crop the following spring was remarkable. Since that time, which was many years ago, I have consistently favored this type of ram, and have invariably secured some of the Hansen stock, indirectly in most cases. The result has been a tremendously superior range flock of straight, Rambouillet ewes, and it was on this basis that I started my experiments with the Romney. Please understand that while the ewestock was not registered, the use of pure-bred rams over a period of about twenty years has made my range flocks virtually pure-bred. They have been graded up consistently year after year, and with conscientious selections have been bred into sheep that are equally to pure-breds. This is, briefly, the history of my range flock.

Now I will retire temporarily in favor of a well-known authority on sheep, Mr. A. J. McMillan, who, writing ing in the American Sheep Breeder, of January, 1919, has this to say:

A Romnellet Fleece. Note length of Staple Combined With Density.

"Of all large livestock enterprises, the methods employed by sheep breeders is very largely unexplainable. All the sheep ranchers have made money, even before war prices for wool and mutton arrived, due to the fact that all their capital was in live stock, and not in large and expensive buildings and high-priced land. But large stockmen, as they are, their breeding operations have been a rude shock to the small farm breeder and to the theorist. They have shown a remarkable taste for complete and sudden changes of program. This condition is true of the sheep rancher in Western Canada at least.

The Usual Method.

" The usual way to get into the range business is to buy a band of ewes in Montana, which are usually Merinos, varying from very fine American to big Rambouillets. When they come over the line, they find themseleves where the mutton ideal is rather strong and where wool is, as it properly should be, considered a by-product to a greater extent than it is in the States. Our grasses are more luxuriant, our climate cooler and our sheep appetities sharper. Our British ideal of a beast to fill the eye as the chief British breeds do, is likewise the Canadian ideal. So, we find the Merino the stock commonly mated to some of the English breeds—Shropshire, Oxford, Lincoln, Cotswold, etc. According to theoretical calculation, if we begin with a Shropshire male, for example, we are committed to a steady grading up process by the successive use of this breed of ram until we have practically pure-bred Shrops, and the same with whatever English breed of ram we use. But this does not go on the range. The first cross is good, the second fair, but the third, under pure-range treatment, where sheep travel and rustle for all they get, winter and summer alike, we get a high-grade that deteriorates. They got small, the fleece becomes open and light and the bone fine, and usually the signs of weak constitution are appearing, unless, of course, a good feed-producing enterprise in the way of a special farm is linked up with the range business.

" After the second cross, the rancher usually switches straight to the fine wool sheep, usually Rambouillet, and after a couple of years of fine wool top cross switches back to the mutton breeds again, such as Lincoln, or to such cross-bred rams as Lincoln-Merino, or Cotswold-Merino. This is the plain history of sheep breeding on the range in Canada. To the theoretical observer, there is at no time in the progress of breeding a range band of sheep a standard or steady type shared by ewes and tups alike, but a constant changing of the ewe type backwards and forwards alternately by the use of mutton sires on one hand or fine wool sires on the other. The majority of men in the ranch business, do not worry any over it. The business pays well anyway,

and always has a rather temporary characteristic, so the rancher gathers the money while the gathering is good. He simply utilizes the free grass of newly-settled countries for a few years until he has to get out of the way of the plow or learn the business of farming himself.

Permanency.

" There are, however, men in the business who try to acquire ownership in considerable tracts of land which yield greater food resources by being cultivated in part, and which will give permanency to their work. These men take much greater interest in the breeding side of the business than the free grass pirates do. One of such is Mr. R. C. Harvey, of Lethbridge, Alberta. Mr. Harvey is not only a highly successful man from the purely business standpoint, but has a forward look and the imagination of the constructive breeder. Mr. Harvey is devoting his attention to the development of an ideal range sheep. Some of the sheepmen, both in Canada and the United States, have been doing a good deal of calculating as to the elements that might figure in the making of as such a breed. The success of the first cross in the Shropshire-Merino mating has lead a good many to think that some particular management of these elements might produce the sheep desired, but this has not happened yet.

Part of This Year's Crop of Romnellets.

An Ideal Sheep.

" Mr. Harvey has always aimed to produce a heavy clip of wool, and has always excelled in this respect in a flock varying from ten to twenty thousand ewes. He has likewise been instinctively critical as to the index of breeding skill that is furnished in a well and uniformly clad band of ewes or rams. Whether he looks on wool as a by-product, or as the most important product of the sheep business, he at least attaches great importance to wool, which is a characteristic and exclusive sheep product and an essential and necessary consideration in the production of a desirable range sheep. The result of his work thus far really promises him production of a satisfactory dual-purpose sheep, ideally suited to range conditions. This is an important discovery. It would appear that up to the present time we have produced a satisfactory dual-purpose animal from the English breeds for farm conditions, whereas for range conditions we actually have only the special fine wool sheep, while the characteristic virtue of fine wool has disappeared. What we need is a sheep that can travel, keep out the cold, produce a good carcass and the best possible grade of useful, commercial cross-bred wool.

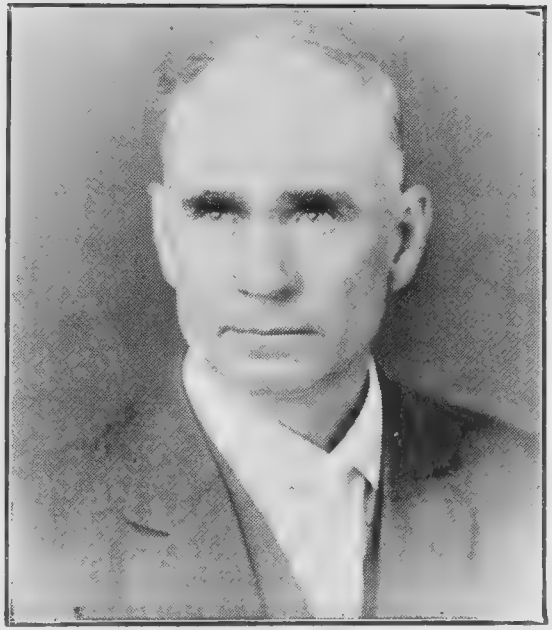
The Romney-Rambouillet Cross.

" The elements which Mr. Harvey has chosen are the Romney-Marsh and Rambouillet, the Romney-Marsh constituting the top cross. Mr. Harvey has not got far as yet, but the developing of a type is not the work of a day. He has an excellent flock of big Rambouillet ewes, the result of careful culling and selection and the use of the best rams obtainable. He has imported both Australian and English Romney rams, and latterly imported two hundred and fifty of the best Romney-Marsh ewes obtainable in England. He has been able to show three splendid crops of lambs from these cross-breds It is his intention to carefully select the best of both sexes for future mating one with the other. The outcome of this second mating will be awaited with

interest. It is possibly too early to prophesy, but certainly the uniformity of the first cross is remarkable. Usually, the first cross of any two opposite breeds gives good, strong-constitutioned sheep of good appetites and consequently of early-maturing qualities, but the variations in type toward the male cross on one side or female on the other is equally noticeable. The Romney-Rambouillet cross seems to be the happy and fortunate " nick " from the appearance of the stock. The yearlings are well fleshed, have good bone, and are smart, active movers. Especially good are the fleeces. They have fine pink skins, beautifully lustrous, uniformly crimped wool of rather fine soft quality, moderately lubricated and very uniform as to density and length of staple.

The Fleece.

" The similarity of the Romney and Rambouillet fleeces each in its own breed probably explains it, but the fleece appears to dominate the outcome of the cross. The Romney fleece differs wholly from the locky fleece of the Lincoln, Leicester and Cotswold. The Romney wool stands out by its own density, and does not fall in lashy flakes. The Rambouillet has a similar fleece. It is up to combing length, stands up well by reason of the absence of excessive yolk and is of sympathetic



R. C. Harvey.

strength and density with the Romney. The old English breeder, Spooner, was possibly guessing right when he said that similarity in such characteristic and dominent features as wool was a good basis on which to determine or decide a cross.

Something Constructive.

" There are possibly a good many who think we have all the breeds of sheep we need, and almost every one will admit that we have a varity of stock to choose from greatly in excess of our supply of good feeders and breeders. The sheep business, however, has been much injured by the continual claim that sheep are merely scavengers on farms, or rustlers on broken land. As pointed out before, we are well supplied for the farm, but not for the range, and the chance of doing something constructive on the breeding side for the range business has been standing open for fifty years. At close quarters it seems a simple matter to cross a couple of breeds of sheep, but it is at least fortunate or a credit to a man's judgment to choose right breeds The big work is yet to be done in the conception of a type and the realizing of it by selection or by such variation of treatment in the crosses as may be found necessary. Mr. Harvey is seeing straight as far as he has gone. The practice of trying out crosses in order to get breeds with new excellencies has good warrant. The Leicester has gone to the improvement of all the other long-wool breeds, such as Lincoln, Romney-Marsh and even the Shropshire. The Southdown has given blood to all the middle-wooled, dark-faced breeds of England. The most popular of our mutton breeds at present are the more recently improved breeds, and some of the best of these are straight-cross breeds. The Oxford, for example, which is growing rapidly in popularity in Western Canada on account of being of the big, strong order among the hardy middle-wools, is of straight cross-bred origin, being the result of a top cross of Cotswold on Hampshire ewes. They are the glory of the country of Oxfordshire in England. They were given classes at the Royal Show in 1682, but the Oxford Record Society was not established until 1888, which goes to show that the making of breeds is pro-

Approved Type of English Romney.

gressing with our tastes and conditions, and so it should be. If Mr. Harvey develops a fixed type of cross-bred for the range, he will have done a good work, and will be deserving of honor from his fellow sheepmen. The ranchmen appear to be backing his enterprise, as large sales of these cross-bred rams have been made in the ranch districts, in both Canada and the United States."

Another Magazine Story.

Again, let me refer to a magazine article which gives other important sidelights on my operations, and tells briefly and accurately something of the history of the Romney and the Rambouillet. The following is an excerpt from The Farm and Ranch Review, of June 20, 1919, written by C. M. McLennan, formerly managing editor of the American Sheep Breeder, and known throughout Western Canada as an authority on sheep and wool:

" Mr. Harvey was in the same position as the majority of range sheepmen and was confronted like all of them with the problem of producing something on the range that would give a good account of itself in both wool and mutton markets, and be able to withstand the inevitable price fluctuations that decide the question of profit or loss. For the most part, the range man used Rambouillet or Merino rams when wool was high and longwool or down rams when mutton was in the ascendancy. There has been very little system to cross-breeding either in this country or the United States at any time, and the result of the hit-or-miss methods employed could result in nothing else but hit-or-miss progeny—nondescripts that could never fit into any organized program of cross-breeding. When straight Merino blood was used, it intensified the fleece qualities and let the mutton end deteriorate. When rams of the British breeds were used, it usually led to openness of fleece and loss of ranging qualities. In both instances it meant ultimate deterioration or disaster. The female progeny in the latter case could not stand up to range requirements. It was a question of foundation stock, largely. What the average flockman wants is something that he can breed continuously with reasonable assurance of profit from either a wool or mutton standpoint, and something that will provide ewe stock that won't fall down on the range.

A Systematic Program.

" Mr. Harvey knew that the principle of a longwool-finewool cross was fundamentally right, but he could not dislodge his belief that there was something better than the Lincoln or the Cotswold or the Leicester He had a very definite type ideal before him, and did not want to waste time in going over the same ground as hundreds of other breeders had followed, because he was convinced that it would mean, in the end, either the sacrifice of his ideal, or failure of complete realization.

" In casting about for something that would fill the gap, Mr. Harvey went exhaustively into the merits of practically all the longwool breeds. Gradually, they were eliminated until the Romney stood alone and

supreme. Mr. W. T. Rich was consulted on the matter and advised with Mr. Harvey on numerous occasions. He was a strong supporter of the Romney, and once the decision was made to use this breed, aided Mr. Harvey considerably in getting in touch with the right kind of stock. This is not the first time that Romney rams have been crossed on Rambouillet ewes. It is more or less a general practice in Australia, New Zealand, and South America. But it is Mr. Harvey's plan to intensify the cross-bred blood by using cross-breds on cross-breds until he has a sheep that can be entered in the national records as a new breed. In the meantime, he will keep a private flock book.

New Zealand and American-bred Romneys. The Fleece from the one on the Left Weighed 27 lbs. with the Tags off.

The Romney Marsh.

" It would be in order here to outline briefly the chief characteristics of this famous Kent breed, because a keener appreciation of its influence on the cross-bred animal can only come through a clear conception of its various qualities. Someone has made the remark that it seemed paradoxical and somewhat ridiculous to use a breed

originated to graze on marshy ground, in a country so dry as the eastern slopes of the Rockies. The statement is the essence of folly, it seems to us, and the practice the essence of logic and reason. The Romney is the hardiest of the English breeds, and the very fact that it can withstand wet pastures puts a premium on it for use in this locality, as it corrects the weakness of poor feet in the Rambouillet, and absolutely puts the jinx on foot-rot. We refer to the Romney Marsh sheep Breeders' Association of England for the following: ' The merits and qualities of this particular variety are such as to designate it one of the most valuable breeds of sheep extant, its hardy yet kindly nature and its adaptibility to every condition, whether of feed or climate, being fully established by the success. it has attained in every sheep-breeding country where it has been introduced throughout the world. The breed has the following special characteristics: It produces a heavy weight of demi-lustre wool, always commanding a good market especially in America, and at the same time a carcass of the best quality mutton, thick in flesh and coming early to maturity. The ewes are good mothers and the lambs fatten rapidly, and are marketable at an early age. These sheep are naturally of a strong constitution and are accustomed to shift for themselves. They require no housing or special protection during lambing. They withstand well the numerous parasitic diseases so disastrous to many breeds, and are particularly resistant to footrot. Although the breed responds readily to artificial feeding, it is essentially a grazing sheep, getting its own living at the lowest cost to its owner. For crossing purposes there is no better sheep. The long pedigree of the breed ensures a certain transmission of its valuable qualities to the progeny.'

" ' In connection with the history of the breed, it may be mentioned that numerous flocks trace back in direct succession for more than 150 years. The breed has in it an admixture of Leicester blood put in many years ago, and it has since been bred pure. Romneys have been bred more than any other sheep for hardiness and ability to fatten on grass alone. It is believed that no other sheep in the world could endure what the Romneys have on the bitterly cold, wind-swept marshes of Kent. They have been practically " range bred " in England for centuries, and would be the logical selection for crossing in a range country.

The Rambouillet.

" In any constructive cross breeding effort where sheep are destined to spend all or a portion of their lives under range or semi-range conditions, the female contribution must be of Merino foundation. It is futile to argue the point, because it is so obvious. It is the only breed that possesses the close-herding instinct. Wool and herding ability has always been and always will be the first consideration as long as there is open country. Consequently the Merino which is the only fine-wool in existence, and the only breed with an instinctive close-herding nature, will always figure in cross-breeding on the range.

Rombouillet Ewes Imported from the Flock of W. S. Hansen, of Utah.

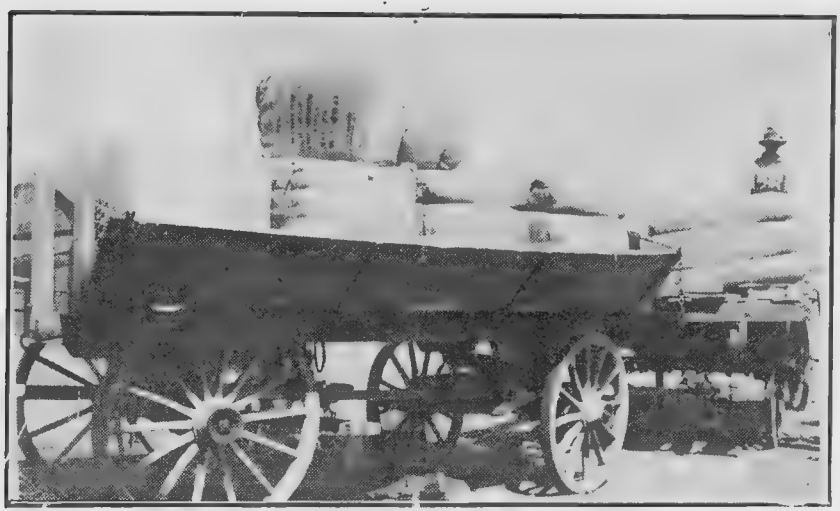
We don't need to say much about the origin and development of the Rambouillet. It is the branch of the Merino family cultivated and developed by the French, and is an offshoot of the Spanish Merino which was the first domesticated breed of modern sheep. You can go back as far as you like into the ancestry of this breed. Merinos were most carefully cultivated by the ancient Romans. Their wool was used in the making of the royal robes. Columella, a Roman engaged in rural pursuits near Cadiz in the first century was one of the early improvers of the breed, and he is authority for the statement that the Merino descended from fine wool Tartentian ewes crossed with rams from Barbary. The Spanish Merino was introduced into Sweden in 1723, and into the

Argentine about 1797. In 1788, King George III. introduced the Merino into England, Australia first saw them in 1797. The first Merinos to reach America were brought over in 1590 by Juan de Oriate, and Gov. Charnes, the first ruler of New Merxico under the Mexican republic, is reputed to have owned a million head.

" The Rambouillet was the first real dual-purpose sheep to be developed, and most of the improvement was made in the Province of Rambouillet in France, although Von Homeyer is credited with the creation of the greatest family of Rambouillets. The sheep that is sometimes called the American Merino is a Rambouillet purely and simply, the Delaine Merino being the only strictly American breed. It must be granted, however, that the best ,Rambouillets in the world to-day are those developed and bred in the United States. Sheepmen from all over the world go to the U. S. for rams. Continuous improvement has been made since the first introduction of straight Rambouillet blood in America. The weight of the carcass has been increased 25 per cent. and the form has improved in such a way that the yield of the fleece doubled. The legs have been shortened and the back broadened at least one-third, the wool producing surface thus being tremendously increased. There are three distinct types of Rambouillet in America, namely, the A, B and C types, the latter being in most general favor on the range, because it has a comparatively clean face and practically no wrinkles about the body.

Selection of Individuals.

" In selecting suitable representatives of these two breeds, Mr. Harvey has exercised the utmost care. He first tried out some Romney rams obtained from an American flock, and later secured an imported New Zealand ram that won second place at the Panama Pacific Exposition in the yearling class against the strongest entries ever seen in America. These rams were crossed on range bred Rambouillet ewes. In this connection it should be mentioned that while these ewes were not registered, they were virtually pure-breds. At that time



My Wool has Invariably Topped the Market, both in the United States and Canada. Read What the American Woolen Co. Says of It.

there was no Rambouillet record in Canada, hence they could not be registered in this country, but they were bred from pure sires and dams. The progeny from this cross were entirely satisfactory. The lambs were big, growthy youngsters and proved beyond a doubt that the Romney is capable of transmitting its superior qualities to its offspring. In 1916, Mr. Harvey imported 256 head of English Romney ewes and rams, as he was not quite satisfied with some of the characteristics of the American and New Zealand rams. These sheep were selected from the leading flocks of England, including the following: Ileden, Chilmington, Mersham, Ashenfield, Rigden, Harvey, Brook, Farmer, Monchelsea, and Wickham Court. The English sheep showed a better quality of wool than the New Zealand representatives, and the mutton type was better. Mr. Harvey

says that the English Romney is vastly superior to the New Zealand for cross-breeding. The Canadian Romney flock book was opened by Mr. Harvey with this importation, and the pedigrees are contained in Volume V. It is needless to state that the individuals are worthy of the breed, for they are from the very best and oldest flocks in existence. The rams are fine big, sturdy fellows, active and vigorous, and hardiness sticks out all over them. They look as if they could stand almost anything that the weather-man cared to dish out, and as a matter of fact they have already gone through some very severe storms without the slightest trouble. They are clean-faced and the face is heavily coated with hair, which acts as a protection, and they will face the worst storms without any difficulty. They are great rustlers, and thrive on what they pick up. With a little care, a mature Romney ram will weigh 400 pounds and shear from 20 to 25 pounds. The ewes are wonderful mothers and great milkers, and they give this quality to the cross-breds in a marked degree. It is positively impossible to get a Romney ewe to leave her lamb, and the cross-breds are the same. The imported flock will serve as a stud for the breeding of Romney rams for use on the Rambouillet ewes, and the rams in this flock were used last fall for the production of cross-breds.

The Ewe Flock.

"Our readers will remember that Mr. Harvey established the record on Rambouillet ewes at the Salt Lake ram sale last September, He purchased 200 head of pure-breds from W. S. Hansen, who is one of the oldest and most successful breeders of Rambouillets in the world. Mr. Hansen has been breeding for over 20 years to eliminate the Rambouillet's horns, and his stock to-day is 75 per cent. polled. This is one of the things against the Merino for cross-breeding. Females rarely show any sign of horns or scurs, but of course the rams had always been horned. In many cases they showed up in the cross-bred rams, and Mr. Harvey wants them poled, so he figures that he will practically cut out the horns by using this strain of polled Ram-

bouillets. The writer has seen considerable of Mr. Hansen's stock, and can vouch for its quality. During a recent tour of Mr. Harvey's ranches, we saw these imported ewes on the quarantine at the border, and they are without a doubt among the best Ramboullets on the continent, or in the world. They are " C " type, big and smooth and clean-faced. There is an entire absence of wrinkles, and they are wearing the best fleeces of fine wool that it has been our pleasure to see in Canada. Undoubtedly, they will make a wonderful contribution toward the establishment of the new breed. Mr. Harvey shipped his Romney rams to Utah last fall for use on these ewes. The lambs were dropped early this spring, and are now big, chunky chaps. They carry all of the good points of the English Romney and the desirable characteristics of the Ramboullet, and as their sires and damsare the best procurable, they ought to give a good account of themselves.

One of the Imported English Romneys.

The Romnellet.

" With particular reference to the cross-bred or Romnellet, we say emphatically that the qualities of these sheep cannot be overestimated or exaggerated. As a matter of fact, Mr. Harvey guarantees them to be as represented. From a wool stand point they are undeniably superior to anything yet produced on the range. World markets are calling insistently for the finer grades of wool, and the fleece which this cross-bred yields is admirably suired to present day demands. It is a long staple wool grading medium to fine medium. Every ounce of it goes into the combing class. You never get a clothing wool from this combination.

An average cross-bred will shear from 12 to 14 pounds, and yearlings run better than ten pounds. in the majority of cases. The Rambouillets which Mr. Harvey is using now will shear 15 to 18 pounds and the Romney 15 to 20 pounds, so the pure cross-breds should make close to 15 pounds as an average when the range animals have already made a 12 to 14 pound average.

" The long wool of the Romney blends perfectly with the fine wool of the Rambouillet, and the cross-bred fleece is about as close to being perfect as it is possible to get. Mr. Harvey has already made a reputation in the wool markets of America and some of the largest manufacturers have quoted on his 1919 clip. The American Woollen Mills, which operates more plants than any concern in the world, took particular notice of the cross-bred wool which Mr. Harvey is turning out, and in a recent letter from Mr. Rich this paragraph is of interest:

Notable Recognition.

" I am very pleased to inform you that I had a long interview with Mr. Livingstone, wool buyer for the American Woollen Mills, and he informed me that he had never seen any cross-bred wool on the North American continent to compare with some of the best fleeces you had from your Romney-Merino cross-breds. He says your wool would soon compare favorably with the best foreign wools of the same grade providing that the grading was done at your shearing plant and your sheep were classed at the same time fr mating at the breeding season. He says you have got the right material and that with expert direction at the proper time you will be able to produce wool which would not only be a credit to the country, but a strong competitor with the best New Zealand wools of the same kind. Whenever any of the wool dealers talk to me about wool, I take no notice whatever of what they say, because they are merely shrewd dealers and know nothing about the finer technicalities of wool. However, when a prominent official of a worsted mill tells me anything about a particular clip I always have confidence in what he says. Mr. Livingstone is the last man in the world to exaggerate the

good points of any man's clip, and when he described the outstanding merits of your wool I realized immediately that you had something far above the average of what is produced on the Western part of this continent."

"When a man can get recognition like that from the highest authority in America,on wool that he has raised right out in the open, we'll say he has reason to feel proud, and is deserving of the utmost credit.

Yearling Romnellet Rams on Alfalfa.

Ever since Mr. Harvey started cross-breeding, he has commanded a premium over other wools from the West and his fleeces have won numerous prizes all over Canada. One of the features of the cross-bred fleeces is the cross-fibre construction. These fibres hold the fleece together in a remarkable manner and offset the lengthening of the staple which would lead one to believe that the wool might be too open for range conditions. They bind the whole coat together and thus make possible the maximum of protection. In fact, a cross-bred fleece on the sheep's back is better from this standpoint than the straight Merino. Another feature is the manner in which the wool clings. Mr. Harvey has never yet seen a cross-bred slip its fleece. The strength of root is surprising, and it is almost impossible to pull the wool out by hand. This is important in view of

the fact that a great many sheep are now being run in Alberta on brushy land. The brush in this case might adhere to the sheep, but it would never pull out the wool.

As a Mutton-Maker.

" Taken from a mutton or market lamb standpoint. the cross-bred is equally satisfactory. In the production of sheep for meat, a breeder must consider the needs of the feeder, the demands of the butcher and the desires of the consumer. For feeding, sheep must possess great vigor, insuring an active digestion. They must have constitution and must be rapid fatteners, and here the Romney supplies both demands. It is esential that they are not too heavily boned and large framed, but rather they be compact in form and fine in quality. A clean-boned lamb with skin of fine texture will waste very little feed.

" The consumer wants lean meat, not tallow. If a lamb fleshes firmly and evenly, he will suit the consumer trade. The butcher wants a sheep that will dress a high percentage and give him the quality and flavor which the consumer demands. It is a mistaken idea that a lamb should be heavy. The consumer wants a cut that will provide a dinner for the average family of six, and a lamb that will weigh around 70 to 100 pounds meets the best demand and the highest price. Of course, nature sheep will scale in proportion.

" Mr. Harvey's cross-breds attain this weight at an early age. As an indication of how rapidly they mature, it may be mentioned that his yearlings weigh from 150 to 225 pounds, and last season his lambs weighed 96 pounds at 7 months. The meat is of even texture and firm, and the quality very superior. As a matter of fact, the best proof that can be offered that the Romney-Rambouillet cross-bred is a superior mutton sheep, is the fact that New Zealand, which has acquired a world-wide reputation for quality in mutton, built up her frozen mutton trade on just such cross-bred lambs and wethers as Mr. Harvey is producing.

A General-Purpose Animal.

" As a range sheep, that is adapted to changing and extreme climate, that must rustle for a living and that must give the maximum return in mutton and wool, we don't think the " ROMNELLET " can be equalled, and certainly it cannot be surpassed. Mr. Harvey has had very little encouragement or support from any of the livestock officials in Canada in connection with his experiments. He has blazed the trail alone, and has pioneered the entire cross-breeding wilderness without assistance. He has brought order and system out of the chaos of hit-or-miss methods on the range, and he certainly deserves every recognition and praise. He has made half a dozen blades of grass grow where one grew before, and this paper for one is going to say 'mighty well done.' Of course, Mr. Harvey has had his critics. Elbert Hubbard once said that the man who had no enemies or critics was nobody and never did anything. We'll say that Mr. Harvey is somebody, and has done something. Consequently, we may expect that he will be criticised. But when you get down to brass tacks, the average critic has an axe to grind, or else he is prejudiced, envious, or ignorant.

A Yearling Romnellet.

For Farm Use

"Taken as a farm flock proposition, the Romnellet will obviously prove extremely popular. The characteristics we have mentioned will appeal to anyone who knows what should constitute a farm sheep in Alberta. You can't beat them for mutton and they give the top-notch return on wool. They readily adapt themselves to changing conditions, are hardy, prolific, vigorous, and will fatten on almost anything. They possess all the qualities you want and if there is anything you don't want, they haven't got it."

That's about all anyone could say of these sheep and my efforts. I KNOW they will do what is claimed for them, and I guarantee them to be as represented. I am out to establish this breed firmly, and I could never afford to put over something spurious. I've got the goods and can help you to improve your flock. I will be pleased to answer any further inquiries or to help you get established in the business. Write me at any time.

R. C. HARVEY,

Lethbridge, Alberta.

Retired in Calgary

Sat Jan 7-1950
Calgary Herald

Pioneer Lethbridge Rancher Dies At 84

Richard Coope Harvey, 84, a pioneer rancher in the Lethbridge district, died early Friday at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Charles Ursenbach, 1809 12th Ave. W. where he had lived for the past four years.

Funeral services will be announced later by Jacques funeral home.

Mr. Harvey came from pioneer stock. His father was a leader under Brigham Young and assisted in the Mormon trek from Illinois to Utah, and it was at Center Creek, Utah, that Richard Coope Harvey was born.

RICHARD C. HARVEY
... veteran stockman.

IN 1900, Mr. Harvey and his family moved to Alberta to homestead southeast of Lethbridge on the old Fort Benton trail. His family was raised there and educated at the school which Mr. Harvey built for the community.

He was prominent in the sheep breeding business, developing a new type of sheep, by crossing the Romney Marsh and Rambouillet breeds, which were superior in both wool and mutton. He called his new sheep the "Romnellet". Dominion experimental farms are now continuing with the development of the new breed.

In the early 1920's, Mr. Harvey began shipments of lambs from Fort William for fattening purposes, later selling them through the Toronto and Buffalo markets.

MR. AND MRS HARVEY celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary in December, 1946. Mrs. Harvey died in January, 1947. In 1935 they had moved to B.C. where they lived for a time before returning to Alberta.

Surviving are three daughters, Mrs. Elma Romeril of Nanaimo, Mrs. Mildred Davies of Morgan, Utah, and Mrs. Lucile Ursenbach of Calgary; four sons, John of Quesnel, B.C., Foster of Kelowna, Robert W. of Lethbridge, and Ralph of Vernon; 32 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.